(a) whether the Copenhagen meet on climate change could appreciate the stand of India and its domestic commitment; and

(b) if so, which are the countries working together with India in this international meet and co-operate for future commitments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) India's approach to Climate Change is fully anchored in the United Nations Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Kyoto Protocol and the Bali Action Plan. The actions of the Government of India are guided by the principles of equity and the common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities as enshrined in the Convention and the policy laid down In the National Action Plan on Climate Change. Developed countries however often speak of dumping the Kyoto Protocol and that major developing countries should also take on emission reduction commitments. India has taken a position that our voluntary domestic commitments that are not supported by international finance and technology should not be subject to any international Monitoring, Reporting and Verification.

(b) India is an active participant In the G-77 & China. Besides, India along with Brazil, South Africa and China (BASIC Countries) often coordinate their position on various issues of climate change at international negotiations including at Copenhagen.

Environmental clearance to hydro power projects

3441. SHRI D. RAJA:
SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that environmental clearance has been sought for building about 168 large hydro power projects in the geologically and ecologically fragile, seismically active and culturally-sensitive Brahmaputra river basin; and

(b) if so, the details of these projects and the decision of his Ministry on giving clearance to these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Under the provisions of Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006, Ministry of Environment and Forests has received two hydroelectric projects for environmental clearance which are located in Brahmaputra Basin for environmental clearance. These are Demwe Lower Hydroelectric project (1750 MW) in Lohit District, Arunachal Pradesh and Gongri Hydroelectric project (90 MW) in West Kameng District, Arunachal Pradesh. Both the projects have been considered by the Expert Appraisal Committee at its meeting held on 16.12.2009 and recommended for environmental clearance.

Impact of climate change

3442. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state: